road connectivity are planned to be taken up over the period upto 2011-12 with a view to augmenting the capacity of the ports to 800.41 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). The total investment envisaged under the programme is Rs. 55,804 crores.

National Highways in Tripura

1751. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals for undertaking the construction of new roads as National Highways by the States of NER;

(b) the names of the projects proposed by the State of Tripura; and

(c) Government's decision in regard to the proposals from the States of North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the proposals for declaring existing state roads as National Highways. Eight proposals from the North-Eastern States have been received after 25.2.2004 for declaring existing state roads as National Highways in these states. This includes the proposal of Government of Tripura to declare the Kukital to Sabroom via Dharmanagar-Amarpur, Rupaichari Road as a National Highway. At present, there is no proposal for declaring more roads as National Highways in the country including North Eastern Region, since priority is given for development of existing National Highways.

Interaction between ISRO and foreign based organisations

1752. SHRIMATI MOHSINHA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO has built a good number of satellite for weather, earth imaging, telecommunication, broadcasting, etc., for well-known Indian Corporate Houses;

(b) with the R&D efforts being speeded up during the last decade or so, is ISRO getting some similar orders from famous space organizations; and

(c) whether the similar expertise exists in Europe, US space organizations, and whether there are arrangements for interaction between ISRO and other foreign based organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) ISRO has built a number of satellites for weather, earth imaging, telecommunication, broadcasting, etc. which are extensively used by national agencies. A part of the capacity relating to telecommunication and broadcasting is being leased to Indian Corporate Houses on commercial basis.

(b) Yes, Sir. ISRO, through its commercial arm ANTRIX Corporation, has bagged commercial contracts to build two communication satellites for European customers.

(c) European and US aerospace industries have expertise to build commercial satellites. Ahtrix Corporation, the commercial arm of ISRO, has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with EADS Astrium—a leading global satellite manufacturer based in Europe-to jointly manufacture and market communication satellites for the global market.

Space Odyssey

1753. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINSTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has planned a space odysey by placing a man on the moon in 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it will be an indigenous venture or foreign collaborated effort;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount of money involved in this venture and the benefits expected to be derived therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for placing a man on the moon in 2008. However, it is planned to launch an instrumented spacecraft—Chandrayaan-1 in the year 2008 to orbit around the Moon. The approved cost of this mission is Rs 386 crores. The objectives of this indigenous mission include high resolution imaging of